

Your AWSP: Get Engaged in *Your* Association

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As my year winds

down serving as your AWSP president, I have taken the time to reflect on my AWSP journey and how much this association has meant and given to me.

I began serving on the Secondary Component Board as a second-year principal in a small district in 1997. And I have never left. Yes, I have served in some capacity of AWSP for 22 years! Why? I couldn't have survived this fantastic roller-coaster we call "principaling" without my peers — the members and leaders of our/*your* association. I have had the incredible opportunity to work with, observe, and learn from three distinguished executive directors I now call friends: Brian Barker, Gary Kipp and Scott Seaman.

AWSP has given me the opportunity to engage in outstanding professional learning, lead activities for both students and principals, advocate for students and principals, meet national and local government officials, and learn from peers throughout the United States. But, most importantly, AWSP has provided an avenue for me to gain lifetime friendships and learn from each of you.

The role of the principal is a lonely one. The interactions I've had with each of you keeps me motivated, engaged, optimistic and, most importantly, you keep reminding me why we all choose to lead — to make a positive difference in the lives of the students we serve.



Ken Schutz addresses the audience at Summer Conference 2018.

“ Take advantage of the engaging professional learning, join a committee, serve on a board, communicate with legislators, or write a blog post.”

So, my advice to you is to become actively involved in *your* AWSP. Take advantage of the engaging professional learning, join a committee, serve on a board, communicate with legislators, or write a blog post. Those are just a few of the ways a member can become involved in AWSP. All one must do is call 800-562-6100.

Help shape the future of *your* AWSP. Your network at AWSP will become a lifesaver.

Cheers and thanks to all my member friends that I have learned, laughed, collaborated, and socialized with. It has been an honor and privilege to serve and to work beside you as your president. ■



Ken Schutz is principal of Joel E Ferris High in Spokane Public Schools and is serving as AWSP president for the 2018-19 school year.